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SUBJ: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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SUMMARY: UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ISRAEL
CURRENTLY UNDERGOING FULL-SCALE REVIEW IN LIGHT OF IM-
PACT OF OCTOBER WAR. REVIEW BEING CONDUCTED BY UNDP
RESREP AND GOI DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BETWEEN
WHOM COOPERATION IS GOOD. RESREP IS EFFECTIVE COORDINA-
TOR OF ACTIVITIES UN EXECUTING AGENCIES, NONE OF WHICH
HAVE OFFICES IN ISRAEL. COUNTRY PROGRAM SCHEDULED
TO TERMINATE IN 1976, AT WHICH TIME RESREP EXPECTS
ISRAEL TO BECOME DONOR COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

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1. REPAIR CONTINUES TO BE ACCURATE GENERAL GUIDE

TO UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ISRAEL. AS OF MOMENT, FURTHER EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS IS PRE-MATURE SINCE PROGRAM IS UNDERGOING FULL-SCALE REVIEW IN LIGHT OF IMPACT OF OCTOBER WAR. WAR BROUGHT SLIPPAGE IN TIMING OF NUMBER OF PROJECTS, PRICE INCREASES NECESSITATING RECASTING OF MOST PROJECTS, AND EVIDENT RETHINKING OF GOI DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. PROGRAM REVIEW IS TIMED TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL.

2. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE KEYED TO SUBPARAS OF PARA 5 REFTEL:

(A) NO INDIVIDUAL UN TECH ASST AGENCIES MAINTAIN OFFICES IN ISRAEL. UNDP RESREP (DANISH NATIONAL MR FINN MUNCH-PETERSON) THUS WORKS DIRECTLY, AND VERY CLOSELY, WITH GOI DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (YAAKOV SAPHIR) ON ALL ASPECTS UN PROGRAM. THROUGH FREQUENT VISITS TO IMPLEMENTING AGENCY HQS, RESREP ABLE MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES. DURING PAST YEAR IBRD VISITORS HAVE BEEN STEERED BY GOI TO UNDP OFFICE AT BEGINNING AND END OF THEIR VISITS.

(B) DUE TO ADVANCED STATE OF ISRAELI ECONOMY, TECH ASST OTHER THAN THROUGH UN AGENCIES IS MINIMAL AND LIMITED FOR MOST PART TO INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS. MUNCH-PETERSON BELIEVES HE IS KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF SUCH ACTIVITY.

(C) AS DESCRIBED PARA 1 ABOVE, COMPLETE REVIEW OF COUNTRY PLAN NOW UNDERWAY. REVIEW WILL BE JOINT UNDERTAKING BY SAPHIR AND MUNCH-PETERSON; LATTER RECENTLY SPENT THREE WEEKS ABROAD CONSULTING WITH EXECUTING AGENCIES, SOME OF WHOM MAY SEND SPECIALISTS FOR CONSULTATION DURING COURSE OF REVIEW.

(D) EMBASSY INTENDS MONITOR REVIEW AND WILL COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE.

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(E) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS IS OF HIGH STANDARD. MUNCH-PETERSON CITES AS ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL: (1) CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (ISR/64/511), WHICH TECHNION REPORTEDLY WOULD LIKE TAKE OVER; AND (2) NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHING CENTER (ISR/69/518) WHICH HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE. AS EXAMPLE OF PROJECT WHICH

MIGHT BE EXCISED FROM PLAN AS RESULT OF POST-WAR REVIEW
MUNCH-PETERSON MENTIONED INSTITUTE OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WHICH MAY BE DEEMED
TOO COSTLY IN RELATION TO EXPECTED BENEFITS. RESREP
SPOKE HIGHLY OF COOPERATION HE HAS RECEIVED FROM GOI
AND OF AVAILABILITY AND TIMELINESS OF ISRAELI
CONTRIBUTION, WHICH HAS BEEN LARGELY IN KIND.

(F) RESREP CONSIDERS REVIEW MENTIONED ABOVE
EQUIVALENT OF TRIPARTITE REVIEW.

(G) WE SEE NO NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP AT THIS TIME.

3. BASIC PROBLEM WITH PROGRAM IN ISRAEL REMAINS
DIFFICULTY IN FINDING UN EXPERTS ADEQUATELY QUALIFIED
TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED PROJECTS
UNDERTAKEN HERE. UPON TERMINATION CURRENT PLAN IN
1976, RESREP FORESEES ISRAEL BECOMING NEXT DONOR
COUNTRY.
VELIOTES

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